



## NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development  
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508  
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

**Glen Gatz, Rural Development Specialist, Kearney, Nebraska (308) 237-3118**  
**Dave Schley, Superintendent, Cairo, Nebraska (308) 485-4258**

### **QUALITY WATER RESTORED TO CENTURA PUBLIC SCHOOLS THANKS TO CAIRO AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Cairo, Neb., July 26, 2004**—Centura Public Schools' 597 students and 50 staffers will benefit from the recently approved USDA Rural Development \$279,000 grant to Howard County School District #100. The funding was celebrated today at a symbolic funding check presentation by USDA Rural Development to the District. The funds will allow for the school to obtain its safe and quality potable water from the Village of Cairo through a regional water system.

"We are delighted to receive the funding," stated Dave Schley, superintendent for Centura Public Schools. "In this day of tight budgets, it will not only help our local tax situation, but allow us to take care of other students' needs. Working hand in hand with the USDA Rural Development and the Village of Cairo in this cooperative effort just goes to show that a problem can be solved by working together. It is going to be nice to share with Cairo their clean water (without sand)."

Centura Public Schools currently utilizes two wells for its potable water needs. The wells, due to drought conditions, have been pumped to a point that fine sand and other materials have infiltrated the water system causing the possibility for bacteria contamination. One well has been taken off line for this reason. The school has experienced positive total coliform hits over the past two years. The remaining well is pumping enough sand that the system's sand filter has to be flushed every other day. If this well becomes inoperable, the school will be without a potable water supply.

"The District's wells have been replaced twice since 1994 thus this course of action is no longer a viable option for providing a long term solution to the school's water issues," stated Glen Gatz, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development. "Cairo, located 2 miles south of the school has a municipal well field which has the capacity to meet the school's daily demands. Tapping into this source is a choice alternative for Centura Public Schools and it will ensure that quality water is restored to its students and staff."

Regional water systems allow rural communities facing water issues to connect to another rural community's municipal water source. The costs incurred in developing the safe and quality water source is shared as the communities connecting to the municipal water supply purchase the water from the owner of the developed water source. This option may provide a more economical choice to the water users.

--more--

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.



## NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development  
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508  
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

-2-

“The District’s water project will include the installation of 9,450 linear feet of transmission main from the village well field to the school, 290 linear feet of service line, as well as pressure reducing valves, valves, hydrants and meters,” stated Gatz. “The school will use its remaining well for irrigation purposes only.”

The USDA grant was provided through the USDA Rural Development Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program. For additional information contact Glen Gatz at 4009 North 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#